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A Municipal Hospital a Necessity.

By D. W. Maull, M. D.

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Act of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws

OF

THE WILMINGTON HOSPITAL.

WILMINGTON:
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A MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL A NECESSITY.

BY D. W. MAULL, M. D.

Read before the Friends' Social Lyceum, and published by request.

The proposition may with confidence be accepted, that with the rapid growth of a city, individual cases of poverty and destitute sick multiply; the charity instances of sickness and physical disability being in a ratio to the increase of the population; and especially does this condition of affairs obtain in a manufacturing and commercial city, where progress means the active industries of life, as building houses, the running of cars, the carrying by steamboat or other craft, the constant movements of machinery and implements in ship-yards, machine shops, cotton mills, foundries, car shops, and other busy places of an active people; and all of these industrial employments mean frequent accidents, by which some of the operators or employees become for a time disabled.

The larger the city and the more progressive its spirit, the more numerous are the casualties; the more houses are built, the more men are injured by falling from scaffolds, from caving in of dirt banks and other means of danger; the more engines are operated, the greater is the number of operatives hurt; circular saws, the shifting of cars, the breaking of defective machinery, the falling of heavy timbers, or bars or plates of iron, the scattering of sparks or the overflow of molten iron in rolling mills or foundries;—all are attended with danger to life or limb, and are instrumental in making almost daily additions to the list of the disabled.

In a town or small city, private charity is generally adequate to the relief of individual cases of indigent sick or wounded; the immediate neighbors and friends are cognizant of all such suffering, and commonly have the means and disposition to minister unto it. The private benevolence is, under these circumstances, commensurate with the private destitution of the ill.

But in a growing city, as it has been remarked, these cases demanding relief multiply, and are diffused over a large area until it becomes impossible for private charity to seek out these subjects, and fittingly provide for their necessities. At this point charitable efforts must be combined and systematised; the means must be centralised and made

capable of accomplishing the utmost good. With a given fund and a known number of worthy cases only is this possible.

The churches in such a city are capable of doing much good, and they exert themselves in beneficent ways, but such efforts are almost exclusively confined to the sick poor of their own membership, and the result of such help must neecssarily be limited, for there are many poor sick who do not maintain an active connection with any church. The beneficial societies too, make themselves responsible for the care of their own sick, but there are many persons who cannot, or at least do not attach themselves to any Lodge or Order.

It is just such class of cases that have no one to care for them when sick or injured, or have not the means requisite to surround themselves with the necessary comforts and appliances of cure, that renders the establishment of Hospitals a necessity in cities which are growing constantly. These worthy charities are indispensable, for it is only through such systematic and strongly organized agencies that the means of relief intended for the suffering sick and injured, can be shaped into a fund and judiciously applied. It is the difficulty of applying charity to out-door cases, coupled with the spirit of philanthropy which favors an extension of its beneficence as the occasion for its bestowal arises, that prompts generous effort in the establishment of such institutions.

It may be asked, have we as a city reached that point in our existence at which it is incumbent on us to institute a Hospital for the care of the injured and sick, who are unable to care for themselves? Will the present size or near prospective growth of the city warrant such an enterprise? Do the actual necessities of the place require such an extension of philanthropy, and such an application of means? and is there philanthropy sufficient in our community, backed by means to carry on such a good work?

By reference to the report of the Board of Trade for the present year, 1872, we find that the population of the city and suburbs is 40,000; that the annual increase is about 2,000 and that the number of buildings erected within the year is 451. From a like report for the year 1870, we learn that the number of males employed in manufacturing was 5,185; number of females 633, and number of youths 512—total number .of *employees* of manufacturing establishments 6,390. (This number has been materially increased within the past two years.)

These manufactures comprise powder, paper, cotton, woollen, iron and flour mills, car and car wheel shops, ship and brick yards, fertilizer, machine work, carriage, sash and blind, morocco, boot and shoe, foundry, and match works.

In addition to the large number of men employed about these various works, in all of which there is a certain liability to accidents, there is a large force engaged in other industrial occupations, as carpenters, masons, hod-carriers, stone-cutters, blacksmiths, or employed about the railroads, in the capacity of brakesmen, shifters of cars, and engineers,—positions of more than ordinary peril to limbs.

Now, it will be evident to all, upon the least reflection, that there must needs be a large number of accidents in the course of a year among these operatives, artisans, and laborers; the casualties *are* frequent, and in many cases are severe; each week such cases are occurring, and embracing a variety of wounds; a foot is crushed, a hand is lacerated, an arm or leg broken, painful bruises made, an eye injured or destroyed, extensive cuts inflicted, and all requiring surgical treatment.

In many of these cases the sufferer is poor; dependent on his daily labor for his bread; with nothing in store for such a misfortune. Surgical services are relatively high, and a poor man with a disability requiring them, can ill afford them, aside from the expense of board and nursing; his disablement is a dead loss to him, and unless some private benevolence is stimulated in his behalf, he must of necessity suffer during his painful confinement to bed or room; and by the way it is difficult to conceive of the amount and intensity of suffering consequent upon these injuries when there is a want of treatment or of proper nursing and food.

The same will also apply to the condition of the indigent sick; no one outside of the medical profession can estimate the degree and extent of suffering among this class in a city of this size,—the privations, the discomforts, the anxieties, and the expedients resorted to to obtain medicines, nourishment, or the slightest accessory of comfort or cure.

Many of these men are so circumstanced at home, that the means requisite for their relief cannot be obtained; the room in which they must necessarily be confined for days or weeks perhaps, is small and comfortless in the extreme, and the proper treatment of these under such circumstances is impracticable.

Another class, whose homes are in the boarding houses, when seized with an acute attack of disease, or injured in their employment, cannot receive that unremitting attention they require; in the nature of affairs they cannot and do not expect it. The landlady is necessarily immersed in her household duties, while the companions of the sick are engaged during the day in their work; no one can be relied on as a nurse, and under these discouraging circumstances, little hope can be entertained of prompt recovery. If the illness is at all dangerous, or there has been a surgical operation of any magnitude, the prospect is still more unpromising.

No man under such depressing physical loss should be treated except under favoring conditions; he requires the most improved agencies for his cure, judicious treatment, assiduous nursing, and an exemption from care of all kinds. If there is ever an occasion in a man's life when he appeals, though mutely, to the sympathies of his fellow; when he needs the best of care and attention, and when his condition should incite the kindly feelings of all, it is when he is sick or wounded, and at the same time poor and friendless; he is then helpless in the extreme, and is suffering both physically and mentally.

Under existing circumstances, when a surgeon is called to a case

of mechanical injury, the primary question is, "What disposition shall be made of this man? Where shall he be conveyed? To his home or boarding-house, or to the Alms House?" If to his home, the presumption is there are no facilities for his treatment; there will be no suitable rooms capable of the proper amount of warmth and ventilation. If this embarrassment could be gotten over, there is another and very serious one; judicious nursing could not be secured; and even it could be, the expense attendant upon a protracted confinement to bed or room, would be too heavy to be borne.

If the other alternative is presented—the Alms House—the subject instinctively shrinks from it. The artisan class, save under direst necessity, will not go to such places; the most deserving sick and wounded resist any attempt to send them there; and no one acquainted with Alms Houses, or their associations, can blame them; it is not alone prejudice; it is not pride, but it is their manhood revolting at the thought of such an alternative, indicative of a degraded pauperism.

The Alms House has its own distinctive province, which is far removed from that of the Hospital; it is an excellent institution in its own special line of relief, and does its work in a fair way, but it was never designed with any reference to the cure of the acutely sick, or to the treatment of severe injuries; and a man who has been accustomed to regard himself as possessing any of the ennobling attributes of humanity, would feel that he was degraded in his own eyes, and in the view of his fellows, if stern fortune should ever oblige him to seek admission there during an illness, or in consequence of an accident. It is chiefly for paupers; for the indigent old and infirm; the poor paralytic; the imbecile; in fine, for the incurables who have neither home nor friends.

In a Hospital this sense of degradation does not obtain; the associations of such an institution are not so revolting; the late war which built up so many Hospitals for the care of all grades of men from privates to Generals, has divested these establishments in a great measure of the relations that attach to Alms Houses. And men when badly wounded, or with severe illness do not combat the idea of entering Hospitals, for they know that such places are synonymous with careful nursing, kind treatment, good and nourishing food, comfortable beds, and commodious rooms, which science has been brought into requisition to warm and ventilate with direct regard to the physical comfort and well-being of the patient, and it is even believed that the instances in this city are not few where persons injured or ill would be glad to avail themselves of the conveniences of such an institution, and pay for such privilege, rather than remain at home, or in their boarding-houses, where the same facilities for successful treatment were unattainable. Such cases would be a source of revenue in time, as in all other establishments of a like character.

A Municipal Hospital is the agent to relieve the suffering adverted to, and the one best adapted to extend help and comfort in deserving cases. It is the proper repository of the charity of a city, and disburser of the funds to be applied to the relief of such subjects. It

embraces all the elements to deserve and invite supplies, and to insure their judicious application; and it receives with generous welcome the sick and wounded, and in the shortest possible time restores them to health and usefulness. Such is its Samaritan province.

Such institutions are noble charities, and soon become the central point towards which is directed the benevolence of the city, which promptly learns to estimate their character for usefulness and good works; and when once inaugurated they rarely fail for want of support. Once in operation, they fortify themselves in the affections of the community, and appeal successfully to the generosity and sympathies of all classes, for, centralizing the means, they are able to become the receptacles of the injured or sick, who can freely enter their hospitable portals, without losing their sense of manhood, or doing violence to that spirit of pride which is supposed to pervade the breast of every honest man.

These unfortunates,—not unfortunate because of their own conduct,—but from the perils of their business, or from natural causes, can go to such an establishment in their misfortunes, feeling that a wise and general christian charity had provided just such means for their relief without accompanying that relief with a humiliation such as must attach to the acceptance of private charity.

Such a privilege is his due, for every sick man or injured, who is poor and unable to surround himself with the facilities of restoration, having tried to do his duty by adding to the wealth of the city by his labor, is entitled to help, and his claims cannot in justice be ignored; as a philanthropic community, it must be attentive to the appeal of suffering humanity, and be impelled to its relief.

With a Hospital for the reception of such cases as have been referred to, how much suffering might be saved, and how many comforts afforded to this class, if upon the receipt of their disabling injuries or the beginning of their illness, they could at once be conveyed to a Hospital ready to receive them, and to give them the benefit of all of its appliances for restoration and cure, as of bandages, splints, mechanical fixtures, medicines, foods, shelter and baths! They would experience a sense of restfulness immediately upon entering the ward and observing the wise and thoughtful provisions made for them.

The cases that necessitate the establishment of a Hospital in this city are many, though their existence may be little known beyond a circumscribed sphere; a knowledge of them extends but a few doors beyond the house, or possibly to some good Samaritan lady who discovers them and secures for the sufferers a few coals, some groceries, or other comforts; these cases are found up the courts, in the alleys, in dark and damp cellars, where there is little or no protection against the cold, and in small rooms at the top of the house, where the inmates cook, eat, and sleep.

The private charity already bestowed in this city upon the impoverished, and those injured by accident, it is believed would go far towards maintaining a Hospital for such cases, if they were collected in its wards. And again it is believed that there is enough of the Sa-

maritan spirit present in the community to inaugurate and establish an enterprise of this character on an enduring basis.

The practical benevolence of all cities takes this shape and expands with their growth, as the necessities of the sick poor require, and this city has now, it is confidently believed, reached a stage in its existence, at which an institution of this kind is a necessity. If it were founded, its fruits would soon be manifest, and all would marvel in what manner the city had heretofore been able to do without it.

There are many cities in this country smaller than our own that have founded such institutions; cities that have not the same constant occasion for them that ours has; cities that have no more means, no more christian charity, and no more enterprise in all that relates to the welfare and interests of the community.

The tender care of the orphans; the thoughtful provision for the aged women; the liberal endowment of our Public School system; the institution of our library and reading rooms, and the generous maintenance of churches, chapels, and mission schools, attest the generosity of our city, but our benevolent system would be materially enlarged and strengthened in the establishment of a Municipal Hospital.

Can we as a city any longer divest ourselves of the responsibility growing out of this utter lack of Hospital accommodations? Can we look complacently upon ourselves as a municipality that is the centre of an important railway system, and has scores of vast manufacturing establishments, conscious that we have made no provision for a single free bed for a wounded or sick man?

Does not humanity demand that this want should promptly be supplied? Shall we not recognize the claims of the suffering sick upon us? Do we not owe it to ourselves to do what we can towards inaugurating and sustaining such an enterprise?

All civilized communities have shown a certain regard for their indigent sick and wounded; they have considered this care a part of their religion. Even in the mystic period we find temples erected where cures were made, and in Jerusalem, this healing of the sick was virtually incorporated with their religious rights in their Bethesda (house of mercy) where these sick were taken to await the moving of the waters. Charity has been called the poetry of religion; the first-born of religion; we know that christianity has always made the establishment of Hospitals for sick and wounded prominent characteristics of their religion, and that it is to this christian charity that the foundation of the first asylums is due.

We may be encouraged further to efforts in this benevolent way, when we reflect how marked Divine interest in diseased humanity has always been. Deity from the earliest ages of which we have any mention, has always regarded with compassion and love, the diseased sufferer, and in his counsels to Moses, incorporated rules of health for the government of his chosen people, even descending to refer to dietetic rules, to the police of camp and house, the necessity of ablutions, the separation of lepers and their treatment; in fact gave a system of Hygiene.

And Christ had not only a deep concern for the *spiritual* interests of the multitudes that followed him, but he was always acutely alive to their physical welfare, and deeply touched in his heart by their suffering. He never disregarded the importunities of the physically afflicted, but was every ready to perform cures. He went about healing all manner of sickness and all manner of diseases among the people, making the blind to see, the lame to walk, and giving strength to the infirm. In enforcing his doctrine of the beauty of love to one's neighbor—which term he meant should include all humanity, he spoke the parable of the man who went from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, and after being shunned by Priest and Levite, was ministered unto by the Samaritan who bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine; he then enjoins his hearers "go and do thou likewise."

In sending out the seventy on their mission, one of the first injunctions he gave them was to "heal the sick" in any house they should enter.

Thus we see that healing the sick and restoring the physically disabled was a Divine employment, and God's concern for infirm humanity impresses upon us to be as regardful of the ills of mankind, and as ready to alleviate their suffering.

Now, in view of all these facts, what are the promptings? What steps should be taken? Why, measures should be adopted to build or open a City Hospital in some convenient spot, for the accommodation of the sick and wounded, who may need such help; a Hospital with a capacity for thirty or forty beds, with public and private wards (the latter reserved for the occupancy of those able and willing to pay,) where children acutely sick can be received, homeless strangers, men with sun-stroke, victims of accident; an institution non-sectarian in character, founded on a broad christian basis, recognizing the claims of an universal brotherhood, the only question being is he or she sick or wounded, and in want, and with no one to provide for him or her? comprehensive in its character as its means will warrant, its philanthropic purpose being to accomplish the utmost good.

Just such an enterprise as this is projected; a charter has been secured, a Board of Trustees nominated, Constitution and By-Laws adopted; meetings have been held, means considered, scope of the work to be accomplished defined; but no help as yet has been solicited. To the persons who have inaugurated proceedings looking either to the erection or opening of such an institution, its necessity is apparent, and it is hoped by them sooner or later to make it as apparent to all those in the community from whom a generous support of kindred establishments generally comes. Satisfied that a Municipal Hospital is an imperative need, their preliminary object is to impress the people with the conviction that the growth of the city demands it; that the frequent accidents and the impoverished sick demand it, and that humanity at large demands it.

The conviction cannot be avoided, that at this period, this Hospital enterprise is more important to the interests of the city, if possible, than the special church enterprises, which zealously engage the atten-

tion of the denominations from time to time. Money can always be secured here for the erection or modernizing of church edifices, and it has become a question if the time has not come when it is proper that this beneficence should be diverted from its former course, and directed towards the foundation of an institution for the physical welfare of our sick. The moral welfare of the people has been consulted, and their spiritual interests faithfully watched, as the presence of about forty-two churches, meeting houses, and chapels testify. Indeed, there are more churches to-day in this city than can be filled, and why not let the benevolent spirit take another practical form? this will show to those accustomed to think that christianity's province is not only to take heed of the spiritual wants of the whole people, but of their material wants. This practical charity will strengthen the churches, and at the same time be instrumental in relieving much pain, and otherwise doing great good.

Why should we not heartily endorse every effort in the direction of the foundation of such an establishment as has been referred to—a Municipal Hospital where medical and surgical aid can be extended to the deserving poor? Such a Hospital would not only be of untold service to suffering humanity; being a city's systematized benevolence; but it would be a clear expression of the community's sympathy; a sign of generous compassion for the woes and misfortunes of others; of a corresponding growth of moral attributes with material progress. It would be a reservoir towards which would flow a community's alms in hundreds of rills, and would stand a prominent object in the city, mutely telling of philanthropic efforts, christian charity, thoughtful care of the suffering, self-sacrificing labors, noble acts, liberal ideas, cheerful gifts, unselfishness of nature, and a general Samaritan spirit.

Such would be the associations of an institution of this character; of this monument, enduring and ever suggestive, giving character to the city, and imparting an expression of grace and embellishment to its system of material wealth and industrial progress.

The city, in its business development, may be great from its prudent and energetic pursuit of commerce and manufactures, but symmetry must be maintained by the establishment in its midst of certain institutions looking to the culture of the morals and intellect, to the indigent aged and infirm, to the helpless orphan, and to the relief of the sick and physically disabled. Such elements are required to give graceful shape and expression to its corporate existence.

Our persuasion of the pressing necessity of this Hospital undertaking is as earnest as our faith in its ultimate accomplishment is strong and unwavering.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE WILMINGTON HOSPITAL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, in General Assembly met, two-thirds of each branch thereof concurring.

SECTION 1. That Lewis P. Bush, M. D., William G. Gibbons, Henry F. Askew, M. D., Jesse Sharp, John K. Kane, M. D., and their associates, as hereinafter named, be, and they are hereby incorporated and made a body politic in law, under the name and title of THE WILMINGTON HOSPITAL, and by that name shall have succession for twenty years, and shall be capable in law to take, purchase, hold, sell, grant, mortgage, demise, or otherwise dispose of, for the purpose of said Hospital, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, goods, chattels, and effects, which said property shall be exempt from taxation, and to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, in all courts of law and equity, to establish By-Laws and Rules for the regulation of said corporation, and generally to have all the privileges and franchises incident to a corporation. The object of said corporation shall be the establishment and maintenance of a Hospital in the city of Wilmington, for the purpose of affording medical and surgical aid and nursing to sick or disabled persons.

SEC. 2. The property and concerns of said corporation shall be vested in and managed by a board of eighteen Trustees, to be constituted as provided for in the following Section.

SEC. 3. That Lewis P. Bush, M. D., William G. Gibbons, Henry F. Askew, M. D., George W. Bush, William H. Swift, John K. Kane, M. D., John P. McLear, William R. Bullock, M. D., Jesse Sharp, William Thatcher, D. W. Maull, M. D., William S. Hilles, John P. Wales, M. D., C. P. Johnson, J. A. Draper, M. D., William T. Porter, H. B. Seidel, R. R. Porter, M. D., and their successors in office for the time being, shall, by virtue of their respective offices, be associates as members of the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 4. As soon as practicable after the passage of this act the said board shall organize, and by lot divide the eighteen Trustees into

classes of six each, and the places of the said classes shall be vacant respectively, on the second Tuesday in January, one, two, and three years thereafter, so that six Trustees shall be elected by the said Board of Trustees annually by ballot, whose term of office shall be three years.

SEC. 5. The officers of said board shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who must be members; and such other officers, agents, assistants, and attendants as may be necessary and proper to carry out the purpose of the said corporation.

SEC. 6. The said board shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur in said board; not less than seven Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of electing officers, making or changing By-Laws or for holding any special meetings; but for all other purposes, and at stated meetings, five shall be a quorum.

SEC. 7. That this act shall be deemed and taken to be a public act, and shall be published as such with other acts of this General Assembly.

PASSED AT DOVER, *Februury 22d*, 1871.

CHARLES GOODING,
Speaker of the Senate.
SEWELL C. BIGGS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

STATE OF DELAWARE,
Executive Department.

I, John H. Paynter, Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, de hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the act entitled "An Act to Incorporate The Wilmington Hospital," passed at Dover, February 22d, 1871, the same having been compared by me with the original roll now on file in my office.

{ SEAL } In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one.

JOHN H. PAYNTER,
Secretary of State.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—*Title.*

The name by which this Society shall be known shall be THE WILMINGTON CITY HOSPITAL, in the city of Wilmington, Delaware.

ARTICLE II.—*Object.*

The object of this Society is the establishment, support, and management of an Institution for the purpose of affording medical and surgical aid and nursing to sick or disabled persons.

ARTICLE III.—*The Society.*

The Society shall consist of members who shall respectively be approved by a majority of members of the Board of Managers present at a stated meeting, and who shall previously have been nominated by a Standing Committee, appointed for that purpose by the Board of Managers.

Every member shall pay a sum of not less than Five Dollars annually, in advance to the Treasurer. Every person who shall pay a sum of One Hundred Dollars, and shall be approved in the manner above stated, shall be a member of the Society for life, without annual payment.

The Board of Managers may also fix some amount as an annual payment, which shall entitle the giver to the use of a free bed in the Hospital, and constitute him a member of the Society, to be approved of as above; and the same privileges shall be accorded on the same condition to any one who shall pay the principal of the said annual sum at one time.

ARTICLE IV.—*Property.*

All property of the Society, unless otherwise directed by the donor, shall be applied to advance the general objects of the Society.

ARTICLE V.—*Government.*

The affairs of the Society shall be under the direction of a Board of eighteen Managers, who shall be divided into three classes of six each; and the places of the said classes shall be vacant, respectively, on the second Thursday of March, at the end of one, two, and three

years, thereafter, so that six Managers shall he elected by the said Board annually, by ballot, to hold their seats for three years.

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Recording Secretary, who shall be selected annually, by ballot, by the said Board of Managers from their own number, and shall be also officers of the said Board. The said Officers and Managers together shall form a Board to be denominated the Board of Managers of The Wilmington City Hospital, in the city of Wilmington, Delaware, not less than seven of whom shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of electing officers, making or changing By-Laws, or for holding any special meeting; but five shall be a quorum for all other purposes, and for stated meetings.

The Board of Managers shall at all times be fully authorized to execute all powers of the Society over all the estate and property of the Society. To it shall be committed the care of the Institution; authority to make By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations, and to alter and amend the same; to fill vacancies in their own body; choose the officers of the Society; appoint agents, assistants, and attendants, and generally to transact the entire business of the Society.

ARTICLE VI.—*Meetings.*

The Board of Managers shall hold stated monthly meetings, on the second Thursday of the month, (but such meetings, not exceeding four consecutively in number, may be omitted by vote of the Board), and may hold adjourned meetings when necessary. Special meetings of the Board and of the Society may be called by the President, or, in case of his absence or inability to act, by the Vice President, or on the written requisition of three members of the Board of Managers; but when special meetings are called, the time and place of meeting, and the subject proposed to be considered, shall be notified to the members at least two days previous to the meeting; and no other subject shall be discussed or acted upon at such meetings.

ARTICLE VII.—*Annual Meeting.*

The annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be held on the second Thursday in March. It shall be the duty of the Board of Managers to make the necessary arrangements for this meeting; to present to the members a report of the proceedings of the previous year; to exhibit a full and accurate view of the State of the funds and property of the Society: and also to give information of any matters relating to the objects of the Society which may be of interest or importance. In case of failure to hold the annual meeting on the day specified, a special meeting shall be called for that purpose, and all officers and managers whose term of service may have expired by cause of such failure, shall retain their places until such meeting be held.

At the stated meeting of the Board next preceding the annual

meeting, six members shall be chosen by ballot from among the members of the Society to supply the places of the class of Managers whose term of service is about to expire, and who may be re-elected. These six members, together with those composing the other two classes, shall constitute the Board of Managers for the ensuing year, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected. In case of failure to make such elections on the appointed day, a special meeting of the Board shall be called for that purpose, and all officers and members of the Board of Managers shall retain their places until their successors have been elected.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Amendments to the Constitution.*

Amendments to the Constitution shall be proposed in writing at a regular meeting of the Board of Managers, and may be acted upon at the next regular meeting of the Board, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, and shall be adopted only on a concurrence of a majority of the Board of Managers.

TERRITORY AND ADMISSION.

RULES.

1. Persons accidentally wounded or otherwise injured shall be received at all hours, subject to such rules on the matter as the Managers shall from time to time enact: *Provided always*, That the accident or injury happen in New Castle County, and the patient is brought to the Hospital within twenty-four hours after its occurrence.

2. That room be reserved in the surgical wards for the reception of cases of accident; and that if these increase beyond the capacity of the wards, the number of other poor patients must be reduced in proportion.

3. The Physician and Surgeon on duty shall have the power of admitting poor or charity patients in their respective wards, to the numbers respectively allotted to each ward, subject to the general rules governing the admission of patients into this Hospital. The admission in all cases to be by printed certificate of name, age, place of nativity, occupation, whether married or single, and of the disease, under the signature of the Doctor admitting. Whenever practicable, the Doctor admitting shall also require security for the clothing of the patient, and his or her removal when discharged, from some friend or relation of the applicant, or refer the parties to the Steward for that purpose.

4. The admission as above made, shall be registered by the Clerk, and reported to the Executive Committee on their weekly visits, to be entered by them on their minutes.

5. No person having any infectious or contagious disease shall be admitted into this Hospital, unless so ordered by a majority of the Board of Managers at a stated or special meeting.

6. No patient shall be admitted on the charity of the Institution whose case is judged to be incurable.

7. Pay patients may be admitted by the Steward, on the certificate of a Hospital Physician, at the rates hereinafter established.

8. No person having a syphilitic disease, or *mania a potu*, shall be admitted as a charity patient, or at a lower rate of Board than $4.00 a week for the former, and $7.00 for the latter.

9. The lowest rates of board for pay patients, (except as above) shall be $3.50 per week.

10. All patients shall be discharged as soon as they are cured, and all charity patients whose cases, after a reasonable time of trial, shall be judged incurable, shall be discharged.

11. All pay patients shall give good security for the payment of their board.

12. All discharges, except for misconduct, shall be made under the direction of the attending Physician or Surgeon.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.—*Duties of the President.*

The President of the Society shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Managers; unless otherwise ordered by the Board he shall appoint all committees which do not consist of more than three members; he shall sign all orders upon the Treasurer, directed by the Board of Managers, and shall call special meetings of the Board, agreeably to the Constitution, whenever in his opinion the business of the Society requires it, or when requested to do so by the written application of three Managers. But when special meetings are so called, he shall direct the Secretary to insert in the notices to the members the import of the business to come before them, as provided for in Article VI. of the Constitution, and such notices shall be issued or served at least two days previous to that appointed for the meeting.

ARTICLE II.—*Duties of the Vice President.*

In case of the absence of the President, the Vice President shall possess his powers and perform his duties; and in the absence of both President and Vice President, the Managers present at any one meeting shall appoint one of their own members to preside.

ARTICLE III.—*Duties of the Treasurer.*

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all bonds, titles, deeds, and other papers and documents relating to the property of the corporation, and of all moneys belonging thereto; he shall open an account with one of the Banks of this City, to be approved by the Board, in the name of this corporation, and shall deposit all moneys in such Bank immediately upon his receiving them; he shall keep a proper check and account book, showing the amount of funds in his hands, which shall at all suitable times be open to the inspection of the managers. At each stated meeting he shall present an account or an abstract thereof, showing the state of the Treasury; he shall pay all

orders which shall be drawn upon him in the manner hereinfter prescribed; he shall execute such resolutions as may be adopted by the Committee of Finance, relative to the investment of funds, in compliance with Article VII. of the By-Laws; he shall prepare and lay before the members of the Society, at their annual meeting, a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the preceding year, of the funds of the Society, and of the manner in which the same are invested.

ARTICLE IV.—*Duties of the Recording Secretary.*

The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Managers; he shall countersign all orders drawn upon the Treasurer, in pursuance of the resolution of the Board; he shall preserve all the records and papers that do not belong to the office of the Treasurer; he shall notify the members of every stated meeting of the Board of Managers, by notice addressed to them throngh the Post Office, or otherwise, at least two days before the meeting; and shall give similar notice of the meetings of the Society, by notice addressed to the members at their residence, or place of business, or by publication in two city papers, at least three days preceding such meeting, which publication shall be deemed a proper notice; he shall also cause notice to be given to the chairman of each committee, with the names of the members thereof, and the object for which they may be appointed.

ARTICLE V.—*Duties of the Corresponding Secretary.*

The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence of the Board, and shall make such communications in relation to it as may be directed by the Managers.

ARTICLE VI.—*Election of Committees.*

The managers shall elect at their first stated meeting in the month of March, a Committee of Finance, to consist of three members, of whom the Treasurer shall be one; an Executive Committee of three members, of whom the President shall be one, and two of whom shall form a quorum; an Auditing Committee of two members, and a Nominating Committee of five members. These Committees shall hold office during the year, unless otherwise ordered by the Board. The Committee of Finance, the Executive Committee, and the Electing Committee shall respectively keep minutes of their proceedings, which shall be read at the stated meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE VII.—*Finance Committee.*

It shall be the duty of the Committee of Finance to adopt proper means of augmenting the subscriptions and benefactions; to circulate information respecting the Hospital; to see that the subscriptions are duly received, and to direct the Treasurer in investing funds; but all

investments must have been previously submitted to the Board of Managers by the committee, and approved of by the Board, and shall be made only in Wilmington City Loan, Delaware State Loan, or loaned upon bond and mortgage, on productive real estate, in the city of Wilmington, the estimated value of which shall be double the amount so loaned.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Executive Committee.*

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to take more immeditate charge of the affairs of the Hospital during the intermission of the stated meetings of the Managers; and they shall generally perform such duties as the Board may commit to them. The Recording Secretary shall be ex-officio a member of this Committee, and shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be submitted for approval to the Board, at their stated meetings.

ARTICLE IX.—*Auditing Committee.*

The office of the Auditing Committee shall be to examine and report to the Board all accounts against the Society: and also to examine the Treasurer's accounts at the close of each year, prior to the annual meeting.

ARTICLE X.—*Nominating Committee.*

The office of the Nominatiug Committee is to nominate persons to be members of the Soeiety, on their complying with the terms prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws. Three members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum; no candidate shall be nominated unless a majority of the members present vote in his favor.

ARTICLE XI.—*Stated Meetings of the Managers.*

The stated meetings of the Managers shall be on the Second Thursday of every month, at sueh hours as they shall order.

ARTICLE XII.—*Appropriations of Money.*

All appropriations of money shall be made by resolution of the Board, and entered on its minutes. Orders for amounts appropriated shall then be drawn on the Treasurer, signed by the President, or in his absence, by the Vice President, and countersigned by the Secretary, or if he be absent, by the Secretary *pro tem;* which orders with the receipts of the person in whose favor they are drawn, endorsed thereon, shall be the Treasurer's vouchers for payments made by him.

ARTICLE XIII.—*Order of Business.*

The Order of Business shall be as follows:

1. The President shall take the chair at the hour appointed for the

meeting of the Board, or as soon thereafter as a quorum shall be present.

2. The roll shall then be called, and the attending members noted.

3. The minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read, corrected if necessary, and approved.

4. Communications to the Board shall be received and considered.

5. Reports of Committees shall be called for and order taken thereon.

6. The unfinished business of the former meetings, if any, shall be taken up; after which business may be proceeded with at the pleasure of the Board.

ARTICLE XIV.—*Alterations and Additions.*

No alteration of or additions to these By-Laws shall be made, except under the same rules as prescribed in Article VIII. of the Constitution, in relation to amendments to the Constitution.